

COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM INFORMATION GUIDE

Introduction

Command and Staff College Distance Education Program

The Marine Corps Command and Staff College Distance Education Program (CSCDEP) is offered through distance education via independent study or evening seminars to eligible students throughout the world. The CSCDEP (8800) curriculum parallels and is based on the resident Command and Staff College (CSC) curriculum. The CSCDEP is written and maintained by the Marine Corps College of Continuing Education (CCE), Training and Education Command.

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Required for Marine Majors

Marine Corps Order (MCO) P1553.4, dated 20 Dec 99, *Marine Corps Professional Military Education (PME) Policy*, requires that Marine majors complete an intermediate level school (ILS) program of instruction (POI). Attending the Marine Corps CSC, other service resident schools, completing the CSCDEP, or an accepted other service distance education program as detailed in the MCO may fulfill this requirement. Completion of the CSCDEP does not preclude attendance at the Marine Corps CSC.

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Introduction, Continued

Joint PME	Completion of the CSCDEP fulfills the Phase I requirement for joint professional military education. See Accreditation section for more information.
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Program Goal	The intent of the program is to provide officers with an understanding of the relationship among the strategic, operational, and tactical levels of war within a joint/multinational environment. In conjunction with the application of Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) doctrine and techniques for the changing conditions of warfare, this understanding provides officers with the tools necessary to defeat opponents. The focus of the program is to develop officers who understand the capabilities and potential roles of a MAGTF in a joint/multinational environment. The curriculum objectives on the next page provide a more specific description of the program goal.
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Types of Objectives	The program contains three types of objectives: curriculum, course, and educational. The curriculum objectives describe the program as a whole. The course objectives include all the lessons within that course. The educational objectives pertain to the content within the individual lessons. The educational objectives should help you focus your studies for each course examination.

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Introduction, Continued

Curriculum Objectives

The CSCDEP (8800) Program curriculum design helps you achieve the following:

- Understand the theory and nature of war and its relationship to the application of other elements of national power.
 - Think strategically and recognize the relationship between national security interests and goals and the way military power can be used to serve those interests and goals.
 - Analyze strategic guidance and translate it into operational direction in the form of a campaign plan designed to accomplish military objectives.
 - Assess the relationship between the operational and the tactical levels of war and orchestrate tactical battles and engagements as part of campaigns designed to create military conditions that accomplish strategic goals.
 - Understand MAGTF employment throughout the spectrum of conflict. Articulate the capabilities of a MAGTF operating in a joint/multinational environment. Primary focus is at the Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) level.
 - Apply sound military judgment based on a critical analysis of war.
 - Understand joint operations so you will be prepared for joint duty assignments and eventual nomination for JSO designation by achieving the Phase I Intermediate Level College joint learning areas and objectives prescribed in the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff OPMEP.
 - Know the structure, organization, and mission of each of the Marine Corps' MAGTFs (MEU, SPMAGTF, MEB, MEF), with emphasis on the Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF).
 - Understand the complexities and unique challenges involved in operating in a joint or multinational environment.
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Administrative Procedures

Eligibility	The CSCDEP (8800) is offered to officers (O-3 PME complete for grade, O-4 and above) in both the active and the reserve components of the armed services, to civilians employed by the Department of Defense (GS-12 and above), and to approved international military officers.
Special Requirement for Marine Officers	Marine officer graduates of the resident, intermediate-level schools (ILS) of other services/allied nations (identified in MCO P1553.4) are required to complete two courses of the 8800 Program: <i>MAGTF Expeditionary Operations</i> (8804A) and the <i>Marine Corps Planning Process</i> (8805A). For enrollment and completion, these two courses are referred to as the 8845.
Disenrollment	<p>There are two occasions upon which you are automatically disenrolled from the 8800 Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>You exceed the course completion deadline (CCD) of 5 years.</u> If you exceed the CCD, MCI will disenroll and notify you automatically.• <u>Upon the failure of remediation.</u> You fail two courses or if there is evidence that an examination has been compromised. Either of these situations are grounds for CCE to initiate a Student Progress Review Board (SPRB) (see the Examinations section for more details and information on remediation).
Administrative Drops	If you enroll in the program and are not able to complete it, you must contact MCI to request an administrative drop from the program. You will be dropped without prejudice. MCI considers you a new student if you are administratively dropped and then re-enrolled.
Re-enrollment	If you have been disenrolled from an 8800 course, you may re-enroll one time only. Additional requests will not be honored. If you are disenrolled, contact MCI directly or the CCE to request re-enrollment in the program from which you were disenrolled. Upon re-enrollment, you will be assigned a new CCD for the program/course. Continue working on the program where you stopped before being disenrolled.

Course Materials

Receipt of Course Material	Upon receipt of your enrollment request, MCI will mail all your course materials.
Damaged Course Materials	If you receive damaged course or examination materials, call, write, or E-mail MCI. MCI will issue you duplicate materials. If you experience difficulty contacting the MCI, contact you're nearest CCE Regional Coordinator (RC).
Completing the Courses in Sequence	The CSCDEP (8800) has a building-block design. To a degree, each course builds on the skills and knowledge learned from the previous course. While you are encouraged to complete the courses in sequence, it is not mandatory. When necessary, courses may be taken out of sequence to accommodate group study programs or other student requirements. Each course consists of a course book with selected readings, and a sealed examination packet containing the examination and student questionnaire. Most courses contain student course compact disks (CD) with interactive multimedia instruction (IMI) imbedded in the CDs.
Required Readings	Once you have enrolled in the CSCDEP (8800), you will receive your reading materials. Retain these materials. You will use them throughout the program.
Gender References	In the course materials, whenever the masculine gender is used, it includes both men and women, unless otherwise stated.

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Course Materials, Continued

Reading List

The following readings are required in addition to those you will receive with the course material:

- Von Clausewitz, Carl. *On War*, edited by Michael Howard and Peter Paret. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984. (8801 and 8809)
- Griffith, Samuel B., tr. Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*. London: Oxford University Press, 1963. (8801 & 8809)
- Paret, Peter, ed. *Makers of Modern Strategy: Military Thought From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986. (8801)
- Strachen, Hew. *European Armies and the Conduct of War*. London: Allen and Unwin, 1983. (8801)
- Weigley, Russell F. *The American Way of War: A History of the United States Military Strategy and Policy*. New York: MacMillian Publishing Company, 1977. (8801)
- Gordon, Michael R. and Trainor, Bernard E. (Gen). *The General's War: The Inside Story of the Conflict in the Gulf*. Boston: Little Brown and Company, 1995. (8803)

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Course Materials, Continued

How to Get Books

Some of the courses, as indicated above, require books that you will not receive from MCI. Some titles may be available through your local library. You, as a Marine, can benefit from a number of booksellers that offer a discount to military members.

- The **Marine Corps Exchange** carries a number of the required and supplemental readings for these courses.
- **The Marine Corps Association** also sells a large selection of military books, including many on the *Marine Reading List*. You can obtain books from the Marine Corps Association by on-line mail order, telephone, or through its outlets. The telephone number is 1-888-237-7683. Ask for the **Book Service**, and the CSCDEP “required reading purchase.” If you are a member, the total price is discounted.

You may also order these books on-line through retailers such as amazon.com, borders.com, or barnesandnoble.com.

Accreditation

Introduction

The CSCDEP is offered at the intermediate level within the hierarchy of professional military education (PME). Marine officer graduates of the CSCDEP meet the intermediate-level PME requirements established by MCO P1553.4A. Other service officers who wish to enroll are encouraged to check with their own service education centers or command and staff-level college regarding receipt of intermediate-level PME credit for successful completion of the Marine Corps CSCDEP.

American Council on Education

The American Council on Education has evaluated courses of the CSCDEP (8800) for graduate semester-hour credit and has made the following recommendations to accredited institutions:

- In the upper division baccalaureate category; 3 semester hours in international relations, 3 in military studies, 3 in organizational management and planning, and 3 in theory and nature of war
- In the graduate degree category; 3 semester hours in military history and evolution of strategic thought and 3 in national security studies

While most colleges and universities accept the ACE recommendations concerning credit hours, each college or university determines the credit hours it will award.

Joint Professional Military Education (JPME)

The CSCDEP (8800) incorporates the direction of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Instruction CJCSI 1800.01B, *Officer Professional Military Education Policy (OPMEP)*, dated 30 August 2004, on the learning areas, objectives, and academic standards for the Programs for Joint Education (PJE). Additionally, the OPMEP states that the completion of a joint accredited, intermediate level distance education program will meet Phase I of Joint PME requirements for assignment to joint duty billets, eligibility for Joint PME Phase II, and nomination as a joint specialty officer (JSO). The CSCDEP (8800) is joint accredited and meets the Phase I requirements.

Listed below is the JPME Phase I intermediate service college learning areas and objectives. The learning areas and objectives below are the ones included in 8800 and were the ones evaluated by the CJCS PAJE accreditation team in 2004.

**Joint
Professional
Military
Education
Intermediate
Service College
Learning Areas
and Objectives**

Learning Area 1. National Military Capabilities and Command Structure. Students will learn the capabilities and limitations of US military forces across the range of military operations. Command relationships, force deployment and organization, and the concepts of deployment, employment, sustainment and redeployment are examined. The following learning objectives further define JPME efforts in this area.

- a. Comprehend the capabilities and limitations of US military forces.
- b. Comprehend the organizational framework within which joint forces are employed.
- c. Comprehend the purpose, roles, functions, and relationships of the President and the Secretary of Defense, National Security Council (NSC), Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, combatant commanders, Joint Force Commanders (JFCs), Service component commanders and combat support organizations..
- d. Comprehend how joint forces command relationships and directive authority for logistics support joint warfighting capabilities.
- e. Comprehend how the US military is organized to plan, execute, sustain, and train for joint, interagency and multinational operations.

Learning Area 2. Joint Doctrine. Students review appropriate current Service and joint doctrine and examine factors influencing the development of joint doctrine. Students formulate solutions to operational problems with particular attention to issues where doctrines differ. The following learning objectives further define JPME in this area.

- a. Comprehend current joint doctrine.
- b. Comprehend the factors and emerging concepts influencing joint doctrine.
- c. Apply solutions to operational problems using current joint doctrine.
- d. Comprehend the interrelationship between Service doctrine and joint doctrine.

Learning Area 3. Joint and Multinational Forces at the Operational Level of War. Students will gain a basic knowledge of joint and multinational force employment at the operational level of war. This area introduces campaign planning and the linkage of campaign plans to the attainment of national objectives. The following learning objectives further define JPME efforts in this area.

- a. Comprehend the considerations of employing joint and multinational forces at the operational level of war.
- b. Comprehend how theory and principles of war pertain to the operational level of war.
- c. Analyze a plan for employment of joint forces at the operational level of war.
- d. Comprehend the relationships among national objectives, military objectives and conflict termination, as illustrated by previous wars, campaigns and operations.
- e. Comprehend relationships among the strategic, operational, and tactical levels of war.
- f. Comprehend the relationships between all elements of national power (diplomatic, informational, military and economic) and the importance of interagency and multinational coordination in these elements, including homeland security and defense.

**Joint
Professional
Military
Education
Intermediate
Service College
Learning Areas
and Objectives**

Learning Area 4. Joint Planning and Execution Process. Students will understand how the various components of the joint planning and execution processes support force functioning at the operational level of war. The following learning objectives further define JPME efforts in this area.

- a. Comprehend the relationship among national objectives and means available through the framework provided by joint planning processes.
- b. Comprehend the effect of time, coordination, policy changes, and political development on the planning process.
- c. Comprehend how the defense planning systems affect joint operational planning.
- d. Comprehend how national, joint, and Service intelligence organizations support JFCs and their Service component commanders.
- e. Comprehend the fundamentals of campaign planning.

Learning Area 5. Systems Integration at the Operational Level of War. Students will know and understand the processes and systems supporting the 21st century battlespace and how those systems are integrated to achieve operational level joint force missions.

- a. Comprehend how information operations are integrated in support of national and military strategies.
- b. Comprehend how information operations are incorporated into both deliberate and crisis-action planning processes at the operational and JTF levels..
- c. Know how C2 and battlespace awareness apply at the operational level of war and how they support operations conducted by a networked force.
- d. Comprehend how increased reliance on information technology throughout the range of military operations creates opportunities and vulnerabilities.

Points of Contact

Introduction	As a distance education student, you have opportunities to communicate with individuals and resources to assist you in successfully completing the program.
Contacting a Regional Coordinator (RC)	For questions about the CCE seminar program, course content, exam evaluation and remediation, and program progress your main point of contact is the CCE Regional Coordinator (RC) located at one of seven CCE Satellite Campuses worldwide. To find the nearest CCE satellite campus and RC go to the CCE web site at www.tecom.usmc.mil/cce and click on Satellite Campuses.
Contacting CCE	If you are unable to contact the nearest RC, contact CCE Student Support for assistance at 1-800-992-9210, DSN 278-4390/COMM (703) 784-4390. CCE student support can also be reached via E-mail through our web site.

Research Sources

Introduction	The CCE web site provides a variety of on-line resources in order to support the needs of the distance education students. Information and links to the resources listed below are located under Reference Material – Research Tools at: http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/cce/students/stu_research_tools.asp
Gray Research Center	You are encouraged to use the services offered by the Gray Research Center (GRC) located aboard MCB Quantico. GRC's mission is to serve students (resident and distance education), faculty, and staff of MCU and Marines throughout the world in their pursuit of excellence through curricular studies, professional development, and research projects. The library has collections of books, journals, and reports selected for relevancy to the Marine Corps' mission and interest areas. In addition to expeditionary and amphibious operations, the library also has materials on leadership, Civil War history, British military history, military education, and military science in general. The military academic collections contain over 130,000 volumes and 450 periodical subscriptions. These multidisciplinary collections include materials in a variety of formats and media that you may use for your research.
ProQuest	This Web site is a resource of electronic collections containing millions of articles originally published in magazines, newspapers, and journals. You can search these collections for articles on subjects that interest you or that will help with your research or schoolwork. Marines who would like to access the ProQuest database may go to their local Marine Corps Base Library to obtain an account number and password or may call CCE Student Support at 1-800-992-9210, DSN 278-4390/COMM (703) 784-4390 or contact a CCE RC.
MERLN	Military Educational Research Library (MERLN): This Web site represents United States military education libraries, U.S. DoD Regional Center libraries and their international counterpart libraries in a comprehensive web site devoted to international military education outreach. The Web site is organized geographically based on the location and mission of its members. If you want to borrow materials, which you identified in MERLN, contact the interlibrary loan section of your local library to obtain the materials for you. They will determine the nearest loaning library and initiate the loan. Due to licensing agreements, some databases are available only to participating institutions.

Research Sources, Continued

Joint Electronic Library (JEL)	The JEL contains all unclassified approved and draft joint doctrine publications, key service and combined doctrine publications, and all approved and emerging terminology.
Marine Corps Doctrine	The Marine Corps Doctrine web site contains the latest information on the status of current Marine Corps Doctrine publications .

Program Organization

Hours Per Course CSCDEP (8800) is organized in the following manner with respect to lessons, reading hours, issues hours, exam hours, and total hours for the course. Study hours are predicated upon a rate of 25 pages of reading per hour and will vary for individual students.

Course	Reading Hours	Viewing/ Issue Hours	Exam Hours	Total Hours
8801: Theory and Nature of War	29.5	12.0	2	43.5
8802A: Strategy and Policy	40.1	3.0	2	45.1
8803A: Operational Level of War	48.0	9.3	2	59.3
8804A: MAGTF Expeditionary Operations	33.8	1.1	2	36.9
8805A: The Marine Corps Planning Process	11.0	11.5	2	24.5
8806A: Joint Warfighting	23.3	2.7	2	28.0
8808: Amphibious Operations	26.5	13.0	2	41.5
8809: Operations Other Than War (OOTW)	21.5	12.5	2	36.0
TOTAL	233.7	65.1	16	314.8
Note: 8807 was incorporated into 8804A				

Course Synopses

***Theory and
Nature of War
(8801)***

Theory and Nature of War (8801) addresses the evolution of warfare from the 17th century to the present. This course includes an analysis of the contributions of noted military theorists on the evolution of warfare and the relevance of their theories to modern warfare. The material covers warfare from the perspective of both Western and Eastern cultures and from the concept of total war to that of revolutionary warfare.

***Strategy and
Policy
(8802A)***

Strategy and Policy (8802A) explores the relationship among national interests, the development of national goals/objectives, and the considerations attendant to using military force to accomplish those goals and objectives. Using *Theory and Nature of War* as a foundation, *Strategy and Policy* explores how strategies are developed and how the capabilities and limitations of military force are used as an element of national power. Students will analyze the use of military force as a political instrument and explore the recurring concerns of the strategist and policy maker in preparing for and preventing war, the activities of war, and planning for the successful termination of war or conflict.

***Operational
Level of War
(8803A)***

Operational Level Of War (8803A) focuses on the analysis of strategic guidance provided by the President and Secretary of Defense and on the translation of that guidance into operational direction in the form of a campaign plan designed to achieve military objectives. The course examines the concept of operational (theater level) warfare and the relationship among the three levels of war: strategic, operational, and tactical. It also examines, from a MAGTF perspective, the considerations associated with operational planning in a joint/multinational environment.

***Marine Air-
Ground Task
Force
Expeditionary
Operations
(8804A)***

Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Expeditionary Operations (8804A) focuses on the concepts, considerations, and procedures attendant to the task organization, deployment, and employment of a MAGTF. It also provides an overview of offensive and defensive operations. Included are topics such as maneuver warfare, fire support, combat service support (CSS), and rear area operations. The old 8807 and 8804 courses were combined into the revised 8804A course in order to eliminate redundancy. Additionally, Marine officers attending equivalent other service resident schools are required to complete this course and the *Marine Corps Planning Process (MCP)* (8805A) course.

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Course Synopses, Continued

The Marine Corps Planning Process (MCP) (8805A)

The Marine Corps Planning Process (MCP) (8805A) is based on the MCWP 5-1 (*Marine Corps Planning Process*) and MCDP 1-0 (*Operations*). It offers the student the most current information on the Marine Corps planning process. The course includes a CD-based IMI enhancement, which guides the student through the planning process using a wartime scenario, practical application.

Joint, Multinational, and Interagency Operations (8806A)

Joint, Multinational, and Interagency Operations (8806A) explores the nature, capabilities, limitations, and characteristics of Marine Corps forces in joint and interagency operations with other services/agencies or in multinational operations with other allies.

Amphibious Operations (8808)

Amphibious Operations (8808) provides an introduction to joint landing force doctrine and subsequent operations ashore. The course discusses the MAGTF role in a joint environment, the adaptation of MAGTF doctrine and techniques to the changing conditions under which warfare is conducted, and operational and strategic planning in support of amphibious operations.

Operations Other Than War (OOTW) (8809)

Operations Other Than War (8809) discusses the aspects of military operations that focus on deterring war and promoting peace in an environment other than large-scale combat operations. Previously referred to as *low intensity conflict*, OOTW is a much broader and evolving concept that includes military operations not involving the use or threat of force. This course provides a foundation on which to assess a situation, decide whether military response is appropriate, and justify the validity of that decision.

Suggestions for a Successful Learning Experience

Preparation Time and Reading

Twenty-five pages per reading hour were used to estimate study times. An estimate of the study time required for each lesson is noted in each lesson in the course materials. The reading varies greatly in difficulty--a fact you should take into account in planning your schedule.

Study Discipline

Whether you work alone or participate in a CCE-sponsored seminar program, there is a significant challenge to working on a course in your "free time." Participating in one of the enhancement programs adds both social and professional dimensions to your activities; it offers that human connection, which enhances your education and helps you synthesize the material. The key is to develop a study schedule and stick to it the best you can.

Seminars

You are encouraged to participate in CCE-sponsored seminar programs at one of our satellite campuses. This interaction will give you a more meaningful and enjoyable learning experience. Examinations, however, remain an **individual** effort. Contact your regional coordinator for the latest information concerning enhancement programs in your area. If you are unable to contact the nearest regional coordinator, contact the CCE Student Support for assistance at 1-800-992-9210, DSN 278-4390/COMM (703) 784-4390.

Preparing for the Final Examinations

How to Study

The CSCDEP approach to study is just like that of resident course study: read, reflect, analyze, and interpret what you have read. Although the courses in the program discuss historical events, they are **not** history courses. History provides the perspective for your study, analysis, and interpretation of the material, just as it did for the theorists you will study.

Educational Objectives

These statements, sometimes broad or general, emphasize each lesson's important concepts. Begin each lesson by first reading the educational objectives and keeping them in mind as you study the lesson and the readings. Once you've completed the lesson, go back to the educational objectives to ensure you are conversant with the topic that addresses each objective.

Issues for Consideration

Issues for consideration are being de-emphasized and eventually will be phased-out of the CSCDEP. Focus for the exams should remain with the educational objectives. Only look at those “issues for consideration” that directly relate to those objectives. Focus on your readings, educational objectives, and if enrolled in a seminar, your seminar materials.

Analyzing Exam Items

Test questions are derived from the information found in the readings and lesson material and are based on the educational objectives.

Each multiple choice examination item is written to evaluate your general or specific understanding of the concept as well as the ability to analyze and interpret reasons for the concept. You will need to carefully consider each option of each examination item to determine the **best** choice, based on your study of the material and your interpretation of the item itself. Read each question carefully. Attention to detail is extremely important.

Examinations

Evaluation Objectives

The following are the evaluation objectives for the distance education program:

- Determine whether a student has achieved the educational objectives.
 - Provide a means of course content review and feedback.
 - Foster a collaborative relationship between the distance education student and the regional coordinator, adjunct faculty, and staff of the CCE.
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Types of Examinations

For the two types of examinations (essay/multiple choice) supporting the eight courses in the program only a CCE RC/Adjunct Faculty can grade the essay exam. However either MCI or a RC can grade the multiple-choice exams. You will receive your comprehensive final examination for each course in a sealed booklet with a pre-addressed return mail envelope in which to return your examination. Included with the package is an examination answer sheet (DP-37) for each course and a student questionnaire sheet.

Taking and Submitting Examinations

Just as it is preferred that you take each course in order, it is preferred that you submit exams sequentially. The following table outlines the procedures for taking examinations.

Step	Action
1	When you receive your examination, put the sealed package in a safe place.
2	As you near completion of each course, arrange for a proctor. The proctor must be an officer/civilian senior in rank to you.
3	Take each examination. Be sure to complete all parts of the examination package which consists of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certificate of Proctor• Examination answer sheet (DP-37)• Student questionnaire
4	Advise the proctor to return all parts of the examination package, including the examination booklet, to your closest regional coordinator or to MCI using the sealed envelope. Regional coordinators will grade exams immediately and provide other services regardless of enrollment in the seminar program.
5	Have the <u>proctor</u> keep a copy of the answer sheet until notified by the student that a grade has been recorded.

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Examinations, Continued

Required Score	To pass, you must score 80% or higher on <u>most</u> examinations. If you do not, you will be required to complete a remediation package that your regional coordinator will design for you. It is your responsibility to contact the regional coordinator closest to you, once you are notified of a failing exam score (see the Points of Contact section for details).
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Remediation	If you mail an exam to MCI and are notified that you failed, contact your nearest regional coordinator or the CCE to receive remediation. If you fail the remediation exam, you may be the subject of the Student Progress Review Board (SPRB). If you successfully complete a remediation exam and subsequently fail another course, you may also be the subject of the SPRB.
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Note: If you are a Reserve officer or Regular officer attached to a MARFORRES command, are on independent duty or are otherwise geographically isolated from the CCE regional campuses, you may still contact the nearest regional coordinator for remediation. If unable, contact the CCE Student Support at 1-800-992-9210, DSN 278-4390/COMM (703) 784-4390/2999.

Student Progress Review Board (SPRB)	If you are the subject of the SPRB, you will be notified in writing of the scheduled SPRB meeting and will be given a deadline for submission of documentation to the Board detailing mitigating circumstances. Appearance before the board may be required. The SPRB is composed of the CCE Dean of Academics, the CSC Distance Education Program Coordinator, and the CCE Deputy Director. SPRB decisions may be appealed to the Commanding General Training and Education Command.
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Program Diploma

Diploma	Upon successful completion of the CSCDEP (eight courses), you can request a formal diploma from a CCE RC or contact CCE student support at 1-800-992-9210, DSN 278-4390/COMM (703) 784-4390.
Graduation Ceremony	Upon successfully completing the program, you may receive your diploma at the graduation ceremony conducted by the resident Command and Staff College each June. To participate in this graduation ceremony, notify a CCE RC or contact CCE Student Support. Travel to and from Quantico, Virginia will be at no cost to the government.
Transcripts	Official transcripts of completed course work will be provided if students request a transcript in writing. Because of privacy act considerations, only written requests may be honored. Be sure to include your social security number in your request and send your transcript request to MCI.
Reserve Retirement Points	Reserve officers earn reserve retirement points (RRPs) upon the successful completion of each course. Point values vary from course to course but are in the range of 15-25 points for each course. Specific RRP values are identified in each course and are posted on the CCE web site..

Summary

**Instructional
Learning
Process**

The CSCDEP (8800) curriculum is a distance education program designed to prepare field grade officers to successfully lead the Marine Corps into the 21st century. Its focus is to develop MAGTF officers who understand thoroughly the unique flexibility and capabilities of MAGTFs and can plan for and employ these forces at the operational and tactical levels of war in a joint and multinational environment. Concentrated study and critical analysis on the part of each student are important to the instructional learning process. Graduates of the program learn how to adapt to the changing conditions of warfare and complex contingencies to successfully accomplish our nation's business either in battle or in operations other than war.
